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SINATRA, Frank

orig Mafia

Kennedy, Robert F.

CIA 7-02 Dept. of Justice

CIA 1-01 Bush, George

## Sinatra Comments on Report Justice Dept. Rejected Inquiry

Frank Sinatra, the singer and actor, made his first comment yesterday on an article in The New York Times that reported that the Department of Justice under Robert F. Kennedy had rejected or ignored recommendations for a thorough investigation of the entertainer and his relationships with Mafia figures.

In a statement released in Los Angeles, Mr. Sinatra said: "I read the report about how Bobby Kennedy protected me from investigation by Government agents and now realize that after five grand-jury subpoenas, two [Internal Revenue Service] investigations (which probably utilized about 30 men) and a couple of subpoenas to Congressional committees, if you have a close friend in high office, you don't need any enemies."

The Times article, published on Wednesday, said that a recommendation to Attorney General Kennedy by the chief of the Justice Department's Organized Crime Section, Edwyn Silberling, for a thorough tax investigation of Mr. Sinatra, had been rejected.

It said also that several other recommendations were made within the department in 1962 and 1963 for a thorough investigation of Mr. Sinatra's relationships with Mafia figures.

The article said that Mr. Sinatra had been interviewed by Federal agents, had been asked to submit some affidavits, and had been subpoenaed to appear before a Federal grand jury in Kansas City, but it also said no thorough investigation of Mr. Sin-

atra's Mafia ties had ever been conducted.

According to former Justice officials, several of the Federal actions Mr. Sinatra mentioned in his statement yesterday were taken after Mr. Kennedy left the department and the others had been involved with investigations in which the entertainer was not the main target.

In another development involving Mr. Sinatra, The Boston Globe said yesterday that, at a meeting with George Bush, Director of Central Intelligence, the singer offered to help the Central Intelligence Agency.

The offer was made at a gathering two months ago in the Manhattan apartment of Mr. Bush's brother, Jonathan, the newspaper said. It quoted Jonathan Bush as saying that Mr. Sinatra had mentioned that he knew many world leaders and had volunteered to help the agency in any way possible.

Jonathan Bush said that his brother had made no commitment to Mr. Sinatra, according to The Globe.